

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

among

*the local and regional organizations known as the*  
**CONNECTICUT RIVER AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER INITIATIVE**

and

*the federal agencies known as the*  
**NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL PARTNERS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES**

and

**THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
THE STATE OF VERMONT**

forming

## **THE CONNECTICUT RIVER AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP**

*“Public and Private partners committed to renewing the economic vitality of River communities, to preserving the integrity of the Valley’s historical and cultural resources, and to protecting and managing the River ecosystem.”*

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
CONNECTICUT RIVER AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP

**I. PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, the Connecticut River is the longest river and most significant natural asset of central New England, linking the wild, rural and urban lands of the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut River advanced commerce and trade into the heart of New England, its fertile valley nourished the development of the United States, and its currents powered the Industrial Revolution;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut River has been brought back to life with the help of citizens, towns, nonprofit organizations, industry and government agencies;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut River is an important economic and environmental resource for all its communities and is a focal point for recreation, tourism, rural and urban life, community revitalization and development, and wildlife habitat improvement;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut River watershed has an inclusive and broad plan of action, which is not one plan but many, to address the spectrum of issues that face the River and its watershed communities;

WHEREAS, these plans are at the heart of bringing together the people, towns and cities, organizations, agencies and businesses of the watershed;

WHEREAS, no other river better meets the definition of an American Heritage River than the Connecticut;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered by and between the undersigned organizations, agencies, commissions, and communities which parties to this Memorandum of Understanding will hereinafter be referred to as the Cooperators.

**II. PURPOSE**

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework for cooperation focused on the Connecticut River among the undersigned public and private institutions in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. This cooperation will be carried out through implementation of the 29 projects listed for the Connecticut River American Heritage Rivers Initiative (AHRI) designation.

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**III. CONNECTICUT RIVER AHRI PROJECTS**

**A. Urban Riverfront Revitalization Plans**

1. REGIONAL REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR GREATER HARTFORD (CT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Riverfront Recapture, Science Center of Connecticut, Metro Hartford Millennium Project
2. SPRINGFIELD RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION AND PIONEER VALLEY PLAN FOR PROGRESS (MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Plan for Progress Trustees, City of Springfield, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
3. BRATTLEBORO AND BELLOWS FALLS RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION (VT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Municipalities and Windham Regional Commission
4. WATERFRONT AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FOR MIDDLETOWN, PORTLAND & CROMWELL (CT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Mid-State Regional Planning Agency, Middletown Harbor Improvement Authority

**B. Connecticut River Tourism, Recreation and Access Programs**

5. TRI-STATE CONNECTICUT RIVER SCENIC FARM BYWAY (MA, NH, VT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Tri-State Scenic Byway Steering Committee
6. CONNECTICUT RIVER HERITAGE STUDY (CT, MA, NH, VT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Watershed Council, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and Connecticut River Joint Commissions
7. CONNECTICUT RIVER 2020 STRATEGY AND RIVERWALK PROJECT (MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, seven municipalities
8. CONNECTICUT RIVER WATER TRAIL (VT AND NH)  
*Lead Coordinators:* Upper Valley Land Trust & Partners
9. CONNECTICUT RIVER TRAVEL INFORMATION PROGRAM (Watershed)  
*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Watershed Council, Great Falls Discovery Center

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**C. Agricultural Preservation and Natural Resource Protection Plans**

10. CONNECTICUT RIVER RURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION FOCUS AREA (CT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Watershed Council, Hartford County Soil & Water Conservation District
11. MARKETING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM SMALL FARMS (NH AND VT)  
*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Joint Commissions
12. CONNECTICUT RIVER AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION PLAN (Watershed)  
*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Conservation Districts Coalition (All 19 Conservation Districts)

**D. Connecticut River Education**

13. GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER (GFDC) PARTNERSHIP (Watershed)  
*Local Coordinators:* Montague Economic Development & Industry Council and GFDC Partners -- US Fish and Wildlife Service, MA Departments of Environmental Management and Fisheries and Wildlife, Northeast Utilities, Connecticut River Watershed Council and MA Audubon Society
14. CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED WEBSITE (Watershed)  
*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Watershed Council
15. CONNECTICUT RIVER HERITAGE NETWORK (Watershed)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Museum, Great Falls Discovery Center, and other educational and cultural organizations
16. CONNECTICUT RIVER EDUCATION INITIATIVE (Watershed)  
*Local Coordinator:* MA, NH, VT, & CT Public Television & Northfield Mount Hermon School, Valley Science Centers, Connecticut River Watershed Council and the Connecticut River School
17. WATERSHED PROTECTION TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION (MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Franklin Regional Council of Governments

**E. Habitat Restoration, Riverbank Stabilization, and Water Quality Protection**

18. ANADROMOUS FISHERIES RESTORATION PROJECT (CT, MA, NH, VT)  
*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Watershed Council, CT Department of Environmental Protection

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CONNECTICUT RIVER AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP

19. INTERSTATE CONNECTICUT RIVER CSO COALITION (CT AND MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, City Officials & Hartford, CT Metropolitan District Commission
20. CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED STRATEGIC PLAN (MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Franklin Regional Council of Governments
21. SEVERE RIVERBANK EROSION (MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Franklin Regional Council of Governments, CT River Streambank Erosion Committee, Northeast Utilities
22. SUSTAINABLE RIVERBANKS (CT, MA, NH, VT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Conservation Districts Coalition (19 Districts), Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Regional Planning Commissions
23. COOPERATIVE RELICENSING OF HYDROELECTRIC DAMS (NH AND VT)  
*Local Coordinators:* New England Power Co./U.S. Generating, stakeholders group representing state and federal resource agencies, Regional Planning Agencies, local government, and environmental groups
24. NONPOINT POLLUTION PREVENTION (CT, MA, NH, VT)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition, Connecticut River Watershed Council
25. HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION (MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Franklin Regional Council of Governments

**F. Reinventing Government**

26. COMMUNITY WATERSHED INITIATIVE (CT AND MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Watershed Council & Housatonic Valley Association
27. CONNECTICUT RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN (NH AND VT)  
*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Joint Commissions
28. CONNECTICUT RIVER PARTNERSHIP (NH AND VT; maybe CT AND MA)  
*Local Coordinators:* Connecticut River Joint Commissions and Connecticut River Watershed Council
29. CONNECTICUT RIVER INDEX: BASELINES AND BENCHMARKS (Watershed)

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*Local Coordinator:* Connecticut River Watershed Council

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**IV RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Cooperators shall devote their energies and resources to working in a more integrated, comprehensive and cooperative way for the benefit of the Connecticut River Valley and its communities. The Cooperators shall:

- Advocate effective scientific management, conservation, restoration, revitalization and protection of the Connecticut River's historic, cultural, economic and natural resources.
- Engage the public as participants whenever possible. Respond collaboratively to locally identified needs by setting priorities, planning and implementing Connecticut River AHRI project objectives.
- Work cooperatively by sharing information and expertise to more efficiently and effectively deliver federal, state and local programs and assistance and to avoid duplication of effort.
- Promote a better understanding of research, monitoring, and management activities currently underway in the region.
- Meet as a Connecticut River AHRI Partnership at least annually to review progress.

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**V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE COOPERATORS THAT:**

Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the cooperators to this Memorandum of Understanding will require the execution of separate agreements or contracts, contingent upon the availability of funds as appropriated by federal, state or local governments or raised through grants or other means. This agreement will be subject to the availability of funds. Each subsequent agreement or arrangement involving the transfer of funds, services, or property among the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations, including those statutes and regulations applicable to procurement activities, and must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

This Memorandum of Understanding in no way restricts the cooperators from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall obligate the cooperators to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract or other obligations.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified or amended upon written request of any party hereto and the subsequent written concurrence of all the cooperators. Cooperator participation in this Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated with a 60-day written notice of any party to the other cooperators. Unless terminated under the terms of this paragraph, this Memorandum of Understanding will remain in full force and effect until July 30, 2003.

IN witness thereof, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of July 22, 1999.



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Forming

## The Connecticut River American Heritage Rivers Initiative Partnership

July 22, 1999

### CONNECTICUT RIVER AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER INITIATIVE

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Richard J. Porth, Jr., Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments

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Timothy Brennan, Executive Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

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John Breakell, Chairman  
Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition

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Joseph Marfuggi, Executive Director  
Riverfront Recapture, Inc.

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Linda Krause, Executive Director  
Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency

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Edward Forand, Executive Director  
Science Center of Connecticut

---

Tom Miner, Executive Director  
Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc.

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Linda Roberts, First Selectperson  
East Windsor AHRI Committee, Town of East Windsor  
CT

---

Geoffrey Colegrove, Executive Director  
Midstate Regional Planning Agency

---

Larry McHugh, President  
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

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Ronald Poltak, Executive Director  
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control  
Commission

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Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning &  
Development  
Franklin Regional Council of Government

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## The Connecticut River American Heritage Rivers Initiative Partnership

July 22, 1999

### CONNECTICUT RIVER AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER INITIATIVE

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Peter G. Gregory, Executive Director  
Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission

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Timothy Murphy, Executive Director  
Southwest Region Planning Commission

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James Matteau, Executive Director  
Windham Regional Commission

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Lamont Barnett, Chair  
Rockingham Selectboard

---

Robert Fagelson, Chair  
Brattleboro Selectboard

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David A. Umling, Executive Director  
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning  
Commission

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Sharon Francis, Executive Director  
Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Inc.

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Thomas Kennedy, Executive Director  
Southern Windsor County Regional Planning  
Commission

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Charles E. Carter, Executive Director  
Northeast Vermont Development Association

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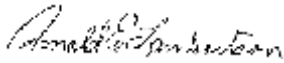
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Forming

## The Connecticut River American Heritage Rivers Initiative Partnership

July 22, 1999

### NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL PARTNERS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES



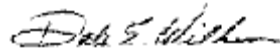
Ronald E. Lambertson  
Regional Director, Northeast Region  
US Fish and Wildlife Service



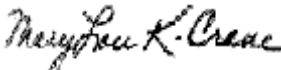
John P. DeVillars  
Regional Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency -New England



Col. Brian E. Osterndorf  
Commander/District Engineer  
US Army, Corps of Engineers



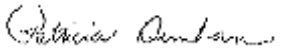
Dale E. Wilken  
Director, Eastern Resource Center  
Federal Highway Administration



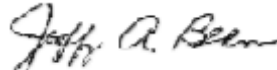
Mary Lou K. Creane  
Secretary's Representative  
Housing and Urban Development



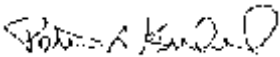
Paul Raetsch  
Regional Director  
Economic Development Agency, Department of  
Commerce



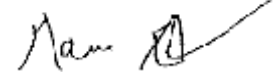
Patricia Dunham  
Acting Director Eastern Region  
US Geological Survey



John A. Beem  
Regional Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency



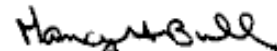
Patricia Kurkul  
Regional Administrator, Northeast Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service



Marie Rust  
Regional Director, Northeast Region  
National Park Service



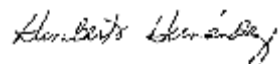
Tom Buob  
Extension Educator



Dr. Nancy H. Bull  
Associate Director

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

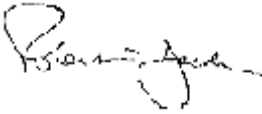
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Humberto Hernandez

Regional Conservationist - East Region

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension

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Regional Forester - Eastern Region

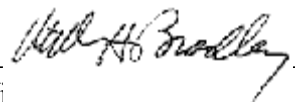
USDA Forest Service

Forming

## The Connecticut River American Heritage Rivers Initiative Partnership

July 22, 1999

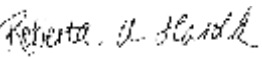
### NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL PARTNERS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

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Wil

State Director - Connecticut / Massachusetts / Rhode  
Island

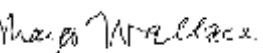
USDA - Rural Development

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Roberta A. Harold

State Director - New Hampshire / Vermont

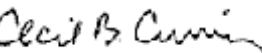
USDA - Rural Development

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Margo Wallace

State Conservationist - Connecticut


USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Cecil Currin

State Conservationist - Massachusetts

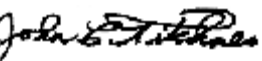
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Dawn Genes

State Conservationist - New Hampshire

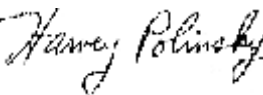
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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John Litchner

State Conservationist - Vermont

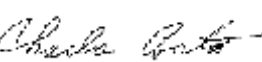
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Harvey

State Executive Director - Connecticut

USDA - Farm Service Agency

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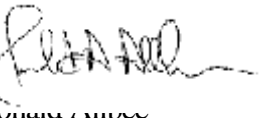
Charles Costa

State Executive Director - Massachusetts

USDA - Farm Service Agency

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James McConaha

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Ronald L. Moore

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

State Executive Director - New Hampshire  
USDA - Farm Service Agency

State Executive Director - Vermont  
USDA - Farm Service Agency

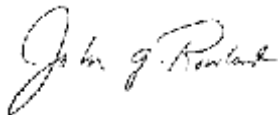
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Forming

## The Connecticut River American Heritage Rivers Initiative Partnership

July 22, 1999

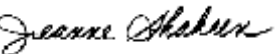
### STATE PARTNERS

—  —


John G. Rowland  
Governor  
State of Connecticut

—  —

Argeo Paul Cellucci  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—  —

Jeanne Shaheen  
Governor  
State of New Hampshire

—  —

Howard Dean  
Governor  
State of Vermont